

FBI

TRANSMIT VIA:

☒ Teletype☐ Facsimile☐

FM FBI HOUSTON (62-New)

PRECEDENCE:

☒ Immediate☐ Priority☐ Routine

CLASSIFICATION:

☐ TOP SECRET☐ SECRET☐ CONFIDENTIAL☐ UNCLAS E F T O☒ UNCLAS

Date

6/23/88 25

TO DIRECTOR FBI/IMMEDIATE/

FBI WASHINGTON METROPOLITAN FIELD OFFICE/IMMEDIATE/

1 FBI RICHMOND/IMMEDIATE/

2 BT

3 UNCLAS

4 CITE: //3290//

5

6 SUBJECT: UNSUB; JAMES KILPATRICK - VICTIM; DOMESTIC POLICE

7 ~~COOPERATION.~~

8 ~~CORRUPTION.~~

9 RE HOTEL CALLS TO SAC W. DOUGLAS GOW, WMFO, AND SAC TERRY

10 O'CONNOR, RICHMOND, 6/23/88.

11 AT APPROXIMATELY 9:50 A.M., CDT, A TELEPHONE CALL WAS

12 RECEIVED BY THE SWITCHBOARD OF THE HOUSTON CHRONICLE NEWSPAPER.

13 AN ANONYMOUS MALE CALLER ASKED TO SPEAK TO THE EDITOR, AND

14 IMMEDIATELY WAS TRANSFERRED TO

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JLJ/arm

Approved: AD

Transmitted

175/0019 2302

FBI 025D.175

(Number) (Time) Per

62D-3954-1

CMOD

SEARCHED

SERIALIZED

INDEXED

FILED

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b7Cb6
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✓ [REDACTED] ^{LOFTIS}~~LETTIS~~, VICE-PRESIDENT AND ^{Date}EDITOR OF THE

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1 CHRONICLE.

2 THIS CALLER EXPRESSED ANGER AT A COLUMN ON AIDS, PRINTED
3 APPROXIMATELY 2 WEEKS AGO, WRITTEN BY NATIONAL SYNDICATED
4 COLUMNIST JAMES KILPATRICK. THE CALLER STATED TO [REDACTED] THAT
5 HE HAS A FRIEND WHO CURRENTLY IS IN VIRGINIA, AND WHO IS DYING
6 FROM AIDS. THIS UNIDENTIFIED FRIEND KNOWS WHERE KILPATRICK
7 LIVES, AND IS GOING TO KILL KILPATRICK TODAY. HE STATED THAT THE
8 NEWSPAPER HEADLINES TOMORROW WILL BE ABOUT KILPATRICK'S DEATH.

9 THE CALLER REFUSED TO IDENTIFY HIMSELF, AND HE GOT MORE
10 BELIGERENT AS HE TALKED. [REDACTED] FELT THAT THE CALL WAS A
11 LOCAL (HOUSTON AREA) CALL, BASED ON ITS CLARITY AND SOUND. SHE
12 WAS UNABLE TO DETECT ANY SORT OF UNUSUAL ACCENT, SUPPOSING THAT
13 HE WAS FROM THE HOUSTON AREA, JUDGING BY THE WAY HE SPOKE. HE
14 SOUNDED LIKE A WHITE MALE.

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15 THE OPERATOR WHO TOOK THE CALL ORIGINALLY, [REDACTED]
16 ADVISED THAT ALL THE CALLER SAID TO HER WAS "MAY I SPEAK TO THE
17 EDITOR," AFTER WHICH SHE PUT THE CALL THROUGH TO [REDACTED]
18 HER IMPRESSION WAS THAT IT WAS A LONG DISTANCE CALL, JUDGING BY

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Approved: _____ Transmitted _____ (Number) (Time) Per _____

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LINE NOISES WHICH SHE HEARD, AND THE GENERAL ~~Sound of the call.~~

1 SHE HAS BEEN A TELEPHONE SWITCHBOARD OPERATOR FOR APPROXIMATELY
 2 20 YEARS. SHE WAS ABLE TO IDENTIFY THE CALLER ONLY AS PROBABLY A
 3 WHITE MALE.

4 [] INFORMED CHRONICLE ASSOCIATE EDITOR LES BENNETT OF
 5 THE TELEPHONE CALL. BENNETT IMMEDIATELY CONTACTED THE UNIVERSAL
 6 PRESS SYNDICATE IN KANSAS CITY, FOR WHICH KILPATRICK WRITES HIS
 7 COLUMN. THAT SYNDICATE NOTIFIED THE SHERIFF'S OFFICE THAT COVERS
 8 KILPATRICK'S HOME IN VIRGINIA, TO ADVISE THEM OF THIS THREAT
 9 AGAINST KILPATRICK. THAT AGENCY SUGGESTED THAT THE CHRONICLE
 10 STAFF NOTIFY THE HOUSTON FBI OFFICE. b6 b7C

11 HOUSTON SAS INTERVIEWED [] LOFTIS, [] AND
 12 BENNETT TODAY. THERE IS SOME CONFUSION AMONG THEIR
 13 RECOLLECTOINS, AS TO WHETHER THE CALLER SAID THAT HIS FRIEND WITH
 14 AIDS ALREADY IS IN VIRGINIA, OR IS TRAVELLING THERE TODAY.

15 [] TOLD THE INTERVIEWING AGENTS THAT HE SAID THAT HIS
 16 FRIEND WAS FROM VIRGINIA ORIGINALLY, BUT HAD BEEN IN HOUSTON UP
 17 UNTIL ABOUT 2 TO 3 WEEKS AGO, WHEN HE RETURNED TO VIRGINIA. SHE
 18 GOT THE IMPRESSION THAT HE HAD RETURNED TO HIS HOMELAND TO DIE.

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 Approved: _____ Transmitted _____ Per _____
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SAC W. DOUGLAS GOW, WMFO, DETERMINED THAT MR. KILPATRICK ^{Date} _____

1 RESIDES IN [] VIRGINIA, IN CULPEPPER COUNTY, VIRGINIA.

2 HIS HOME TELEPHONE NUMBER IS [] CULPEPPER COUNTY IS

3 COVERED BY THE RICHMOND FIELD OFFICE.

4 SA [] FURNISHED THIS INFORMATION

5 TELEPHONICALLY TO RICHMOND SUPERVISOR [] ON 6/23/88.

6 RICHMOND IS TO ASSURE THAT APPROPRIATE POLICE OFFICIALS ARE

7 NOTIFIED OF THIS THREAT AGAINST MR. KILPATRICK. CONTACT WITH MR.

8 KILPATRICK IS LEFT TO THE DISCRETION OF RICHMOND.

9 FD 302S FOLLOW.

10 BT

11 *BUREAU IS REQUESTED TO INSURE MEDIA*
12 *RELATIONS OFFICE IS ^{EXPEDITIOUSLY} ADVISED OF DETAILS.*

Approved: _____ Transmitted _____ Per _____
(Number) (Time)

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INBOX.1 (#1294)

TO: HO @ EMH2, HQ2 @ EMH2, WMFO @ EMH1

FROM: RH @ EMH2

SUBJECT: 176/0002 IMMEDIATE

DATE: 24 JUN 88 15:24:15 GMT

CC:

TEXT:

VZCZCRH0002

OO HO HQ WMFO

DE RH #0002 1761435

ZNY UUUUU

O 241404Z JUN 88

FM FBI RICHMOND (62 -)

TO FBI HOUSTON/IMMEDIATE/

TO FBI DIRECTOR FBI/PRIORITY/

WASHINGTON METROPOLITAN FIELD OFFICE/PRIORITY/

BT

UNCLAS

CITE: //3710//

GENERAL INDICES

☒ Automated Search *THS*

☒ Manual Search *THS*

-196B-1131-68p2
SUBJECT: UNSUB; JAMES KILPATRICK - VICTIM; DOMESTIC POLICE.
COOPERATION.

RE HOUSTON TELEPHONE CALL TO RICHMOND ON JUNE 23, 1988, AND
HOUSTON TELETYPE TO RICHMOND DATED JUNE 23, 1988.

IN REGARD TO THE DEATH THREAT TO JAMES KILPATRICK RECEIVED BY
THE "HOUSTON CHRONICLE" ON JUNE 23, 1988, RICHMOND CONTACTED THE
RAPPAHANNOCK COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE WHICH COVERS KILPATRICK'S
RESIDENCE IN [REDACTED] VIRGINIA. RICHMOND DETERMINED THAT SHERIFF

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62B-3954-2

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JUN 24 1988	

[REDACTED]

PAGE TWO DE RH 0002 UNCLAS

JOHN HENRY WOODARD HAD PREVIOUSLY BEEN ADVISED OF THIS INFORMATION FROM KILPATRICK'S PRESS SYNDICATE. THE RAPPAHANNOCK COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE HAD ALREADY CONTACTED MRS. KILPATRICK AND DETERMINED THAT JAMES KILPATRICK WAS OUT OF STATE AT THIS TIME. THE RAPPAHANNOCK COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE WAS KEEPING EXTRA PATROL ON THE KILPATRICK HOME.

BT

#0002

NNNN

FBI

TRANSMIT VIA:

☐ Teletype
☐ Facsimile
☒ Airtel

PRECEDENCE:

☐ Immediate
☐ Priority
☐ Routine

CLASSIFICATION:

☐ TOP SECRET
☐ SECRET
☐ CONFIDENTIAL
☐ UNCLAS E F T O
☐ UNCLAS

Date 6/27/88

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (ATTN: MEDIA SERVICES UNIT - PRESS OFFIC)

FROM: SAC, HOUSTON (62D-3954)

UNSUB;
 JAMES KILPATRICK - VICTIM
 DOMESTIC POLICE COOPERATION
 (OO:HO)

Re HO tel to Bu, 6/23/88.

Enclosed for the Bureau and receiving offices are two copies each of four FD-302s reflecting interviews with JACK LOFTIS, Editor, [redacted] Senior Associate Editor, [redacted] to LOFTIS, and [redacted]

The Houston Chronicle is the largest newspaper in Houston, Texas. JACK LOFTIS and his staff will remain alert for any additional information relative to captioned matter. In the event additional telephone calls are received, this information will be disseminated expeditiously.

2 - Bureau (Encl. 8) (INFO)
 2 - WMFO (Encl. 8)
 2 - Richmond (Encl. 8)
 ② - Houston
 CBK/low
 (8) [initials]

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Approved: _____ Transmitted _____ Per _____
 (Number) (Time)

62D-3954-3
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 INDEXED _____
 FILED _____

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1Date of transcription 6/27/88

[redacted] "Houston Chronicle" (HC), 801 Texas Street, Houston, Texas, advised that their main switchboard number set forth in the Southwestern Bell Telephone Directory is 713/220-7171.

[redacted] specifically remembers this telephone call because moments after it occurred, she was contacted by [redacted] to JACK LOFTIS, Editor, HC.

She remembers that the caller asked, "May I speak to the editor?" [redacted] volunteered that she thought that it was a long distance phone call because there was some static on the line and it was not as clear as local calls normally are. There were significant background noises. She came on duty at 9:00 a.m. She felt that the incoming call occurred shortly before 10:00 a.m., this morning, June 23, 1988. She further noted that this was the only call that she put up to the editor.

[redacted] advised that she has been a [redacted] for approximately 20 years.

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62D-3954-4

SEARCHED	INDEXED
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JUN 27 1988

Investigation on 6/23/88 at Houston, Texas File # HO 62D-3954
 by SAs [redacted] and [redacted] /low Date dictated 6/23/88

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription 6/27/88

[redacted] to JACK LOFTIS, Editor, "Houston Chronicle Newspaper", 801 Texas Street, Houston, Texas, telephone number 713/220-7171, advised that at approximately 9:50 a.m., June 23, 1988, she received a phone call from an unknown male (most likely caucasian) who wanted to complain about an editorial that appeared approximately two weeks earlier in the "Houston Chronicle Newspaper" (HCN). More specifically, the editorial was written by JAMES KILPATRICK. It was printed in the Wednesday, June 8, 1988 edition on page 14 of section 1. It was entitled "AIDS just isn't that big a deal." It should be noted that KILPATRICK is a nationally syndicated columnist based in Washington, D.C.

The caller did not seem to want anyone in particular. He stated that he wanted to make a complaint against the editorial, supra. [redacted] tried to placate the caller, but the longer that he talked, the more belligerent he became. He thought that it was bad for the HCN to put in the editorial in the first place. He described JAMES KILPATRICK as incompetent to be a syndicated columnist. [redacted] asked the caller for his name and telephone number, but the caller told her that he did not want to give it out. The caller then went on to say, "I have a friend who is dying of AIDS in Virginia." From the conversation, [redacted] felt that this friend in Virginia knew that KILPATRICK was "out of [redacted], Virginia." The caller went on to say that this friend in Virginia is so irate over the article that he was going to kill KILPATRICK. "James Kilpatrick's name will be on the front page of the Chronicle tomorrow morning. He is dead."

[redacted] tried to again get the caller's name and number, but was again denied. Instead, he responded, "I have said what I want to say. Kilpatrick will be dead tomorrow."

[redacted] added that she was of the assumption that this friend left Houston perhaps two or three weeks ago to return to Virginia which may have been the area where he was born. She also was of the opinion that he may be going home to die.

Investigation on 6/23/88 at Houston, Texas File # HO 62D-3954

SAs [redacted]
by and [redacted] /low Date dictated 6/23/88

HO 62D-3954

Continuation of FD-302 of [REDACTED]

, On 6/23/88 , Page 2

[REDACTED] felt that at first the person was rational, but may have turned somewhat irrational and was perhaps bitter. He implied that his friend was so distraught and intent that he might try to carry out his threat. The caller stated that his friend knew exactly what he wanted to do.

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The caller seemed educated. She noted nothing out of the ordinary regarding his speech, and that included regional accents. She noted that the telephone call sounded as if it may have been local because it was so clear.

When the caller hung up, [REDACTED] immediately telephoned LES BENNETT who is one of the officials closely associated with the editorial portion of the newspaper. She told him what transpired and she understood that he telephoned Universal Press Syndicate which manages the JAMES KILPATRICK operation. Universal Press Syndicate (UPS) is located at 4400 Johnson Street, Fairway, Kansas 66205, telephone number 816/932-6600.

UPS may have contacted the Sheriff's Office in the Virginia City where KILPATRICK resides. The Sheriff's Office, in turn, called the HCN to suggest to them that they immediately contact the Houston Office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI). It was alleged that the Sheriff's Office may have also advised the "Virginia FBI."

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1Date of transcription 6/27/88

LES BENNETT, Senior Associate Editor, "Houston Chronicle" (HC), 801 Texas Street, Houston, Texas, telephone number 713/220-7171, advised that he was contacted around 10:00 a.m. on June 23, 1988, by [redacted] to JACK LOFTIS, Editor. BENNETT recalls that [redacted] told him that a caller was warning that a friend of his was going to Virginia to kill JAMES KILPATRICK. It was his understanding that this might have been someone who had lived in Virginia at one time and was going back there.

BENNETT called KILPATRICK's syndicate in Kansas, and he spoke to KILPATRICK's editor there. The syndicate passed the information on to KILPATRICK. KILPATRICK's secretary in Virginia subsequently called BENNETT and he gave her the same information that he had given to KILPATRICK's Kansas syndicate. KILPATRICK's secretary in Virginia, in turn, "notified the local FBI" and they also suggested that BENNETT call the Houston Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI).

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62D-3954-6

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JUN 27 1988	

Investigation on 6/23/88 at Houston, Texas File # HO 62D-3954

by SAs [redacted]
and [redacted] /low Date dictated 6/23/88

1

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription 6/27/88

JACK LOFTIS, Editor, "Houston Chronicle" (HC), 801 Texas Street, Houston, Texas, telephone number 713/220-7171, was very cognizant of the editorial written by the nationally syndicated columnist JAMES KILPATRICK. He felt that from past experience, he would have received at least 400 calls commenting on the AIDS article. He noted, however, that to date, they have only received approximately 125 calls and 12 letters.

LOFTIS was aware of the threatening phone call received against KILPATRICK. He understood that his associate editor, LES BENNETT, has been in touch with KILPATRICK's office who, in turn, called the Sheriff's Office in Virginia, 703/675-3332.

LOFTIS pledged his assistance in any way possible and he will remain alert for any additional information of value.

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Investigation on 6/23/88 at Houston, Texas File # HO 62D-3954 - 7
by SAs [redacted] and [redacted] /low Date dictated 6/23/88